

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
SALEM DISTRICT  
TILLAMOOK FIELD OFFICE  
Categorical Exclusion Review**

**A. Background**

**BLM Office:** Tillamook Field Office

**Lease/Serial/Case File No:** N/A

**Categorical Exclusion Number:** DOI-BLM-ORWA-S060-2016-0010-CX    **Date:** 7/12/2016

**Proposed Action Title/Type:** Special Recreation Permit (SRP) – Willamette Motor Club Hill Climb

**Location of Proposed Action:** T.4S., R.7W., Sec. 7, 8, and 17, Bible Creek Access Road (Nestucca River Watershed)

**Land Use Allocation(s):** Late Successional Reserve (LSR), and Riparian Reserve (RR).

**Description of Proposed Action:** The proposed action is to grant a Special Recreation Permit to the Willamette Motor Club, for use of a 2.6 mile segment of the Bible Creek Road for a timed auto hill climb event involving up to 60 street legal motor vehicles. The dates of the event request are August 12, 13, and 14, 2016. The proposed action is a non-spectator event with an estimated number of 90 people participating in the event as event staff, event monitors, drivers, family members and emergency response personnel. This event is sanctioned by the Northwest Hillclimb Association and is an official round of their annual championship series.

The event would stage at the stockpile site on U.S. Forest Service (USFS) land at the junction of Bible Creek and Nestucca Access Roads and use approximately 2.6 miles of the Bible Creek Road to a junction with overgrown un-numbered logging road. For public safety, the applicant would be required to clear the Bible Creek Road of all public vehicles and temporarily block the road, including side road junctions, during the running of each event. Additionally, non-participating traffic would be escorted through the use area by event coordinators. Public traffic on the Bible Creek Road is anticipated to be delayed for up to 15 minutes increments during racing activities. The Nestucca Access Road will not be blocked at any time for this event.

The event would not begin until at least two (2) hours after sunrise and would end no later than two (2) hours before sunset daily. Noise limits for participating vehicles is 95 dba, will be equipped with spark arrestor type mufflers, and all participating vehicles will be submitted to a technical inspection prior to racing activities.

Bible Creek Road would be open to two way traffic before and after each day's racing event. No speed practices will be allowed outside of event hours. Course set up will begin at 6:30 am on both Saturday and Sunday of the event. Racing will begin at 9:00 am with an estimated end time of approximately 6:00 pm. Only one vehicle will run the course at any given time, racers are

competing on a time clock.

### **Project Design Features (Stipulations for Permittee):**

- Staging: Authorization to use the staging site is contingent on approval from U.S. Forest Service.
- Aesthetics: Permittee shall protect the scenic and aesthetic values of the public lands used in the operations, and maintain premises on permitted grounds and areas to acceptable standards of repair, orderliness, and cleanliness. After use, insofar as practical, the area shall be left in a natural state.
- Sanitation: Toilet facilities will be available at the staging area located on USFS lands.
- Trash Disposal: All trash generated by the permitted operation shall be packed out of public land. No trash or litter shall be allowed to accumulate on the grounds. Trash shall not be buried on public land.
- Signage: The applicant will provide removable signage at both the top and bottom of Bible Creek road, 2 weeks prior to the event, notifying the public of potential delays. A sign will also be posted on the kiosk at the large gravel area (USFS) located at the base of Bible Creek informing the public of the upcoming event and potential delays.
- Fire Season: When the Oregon Dept. of Forestry has instituted public use fire restrictions and the Regulated Use Closure is in effect, permittees shall follow all ODF guidelines.
- Soils: Permittee shall conduct the permitted operations on paved roadways, preventing any rutting, or severe soil erosion.
- Protection of Public Property: Signs, equipment, markers, and fences or any other property found on public land shall not be damaged, destroyed, defaced, removed, or disturbed.
- Cultural Resources: Archeological and historical values including, but not limited to, petroglyphs, ruins, historic structures, and artifacts shall not be damaged, destroyed, removed or disturbed. Any hidden cultural values uncovered through authorized operations shall be left in place, and the Field Manager shall be notified of their discovery.
- Daily Time Restrictions: Daily time restrictions will be applied which means the event must start at least 2-hours after sunrise and end no later than 2-hours prior to sunset.
- Safety: Fire protection and emergency response personnel and vehicles will be on site during all racing activities. Emergency response personnel will have the capability of locating, extricating and rendering aid to any accident victim. Emergency response personnel will have radio communication with Tillamook emergency dispatch center for additional assistance if needed.
- Spill Containment: Spill containment kits will be located at the staging area and readily available during permitted activities. Absorbent mats will be provided to each vehicle for ground protection.
- Fuel Storage: Fuel storage will be limited to 5 gallon containers. While fuel is being stored on site, it will be located within a secondary drip-proof tray or container to further limit any potential spillage.
- Spectators: The proposed action is not a public spectator event. Spectators are limited to event hosts, monitors, family members and emergency personnel. Spectator areas will be clearly defined and located such that they do not interfere with the course and are not in direct line for any racing activity. These areas should be located in a manner that will keep them safe from harm if any vehicle should lose control. They should be well marked, easily

identified and approved by BLM staff prior to racing activities.

## B. Land Use Plan Conformance

The proposed action is in conformance with the 1995 Salem District Resource & Management Plan (RMP, p. 41), which directs the following:

- Provide for a wide range of developed and dispersed recreation opportunities that contribute to meeting projected demand within the planning area.
- Support locally sponsored tourism initiatives and community economic strategies by providing recreation projects and programs with both short- and long-term benefits.

The proposed action is further consistent with the:

- *Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl and Standard and Guidelines for Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl*, dated April, 1994;
- *Record of Decision and Standards and Guidelines for Amendment to the Survey & Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines* (S&M ROD, January 2001);

## C. Compliance with NEPA

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9 (H) 1, which allows for issuing Special Recreation Permits for day-use “that impacts no more than three staging area acres; and/ or for recreational travel along roads, trails, or in areas authorized in a land use plan.”

<b>Table 1: Categorical Exclusions: Extraordinary Circumstances Review</b>		
Will the Proposed Action documented in this Categorical Exclusion	Yes	No
<b>A/</b> Have significant impacts on public health or safety?		No
<b>Rationale:</b> All proposed activities follow established rules concerning health and safety.		
<b>B/</b> Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as: historic or cultural resources, park, recreation or refuge lands, wilderness areas, wild or scenic rivers, national natural landmarks, sole or principal drinking water aquifers, prime farmlands, wetlands, floodplains, national monuments, migratory birds, other ecologically significant or critical areas?		No
<b>Rationale:</b> There are no unique geographic characteristics within the proposed project area that could be affected by the project, therefore no impacts would be expected.		
<b>C/</b> Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA section 102(2) (E)]?		No
<b>Rationale:</b> Based on experience, this type of activity has no predicted environmental		

<b>Table 1: Categorical Exclusions: Extraordinary Circumstances Review</b>		
Will the Proposed Action documented in this Categorical Exclusion	Yes	No
effects from the proposed action that may be considered highly controversial nor are there any unresolved conflicts concerning alternatives uses.		
<b>D/</b> Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?		No
<b>Rationale:</b> Experience from this type of activity has shown no highly uncertain, potentially significant, unique or unknown environmental risks.		
<b>E/</b> Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?		No
<b>Rationale:</b> Similar actions have taken place throughout the district with no evidence suggesting that this type of project will establish a precedent or decision for future action. Each special recreation permit is evaluated for potential environmental effects and processed independently according to BLM regulations.		
<b>F/</b> Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects?		No
<b>Rationale:</b> The BLM does not expect any direct or indirect effects to result from the proposed action therefore no cumulative effects are expected.		
<b>G/</b> Have significant impacts on properties listed or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office?		No
<b>Rationale:</b> No listed or eligible properties exist in the project area.		
<b>H/</b> Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species?		No
<b>Rationale:</b>		
<b>Fisheries:</b> Vehicles will travel on existing paved roads. Parking and turn-around locations are gravel surfaced. No aquatic habitat will be disturbed by the proposed activities. No effects to ESA listed Oregon Coast Coho or their designated Critical Habitat are anticipated.		
<b>Wildlife:</b> Vehicles will travel along paved roads. Parking and turn-around locations are gravel surfaced. No adjacent suitable habitat for any ESA listed wildlife species will be disturbed by the activities – no effect.		
<b>Botany/Fungi:</b> There is no listed plant species habitat present in the project area.		
<b>I/</b> Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?		No
<b>Rationale:</b> The project would follow all known Federal, State, local, Tribal laws, or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment.		
<b>J/</b> Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898)?		No

<b>Table 1: Categorical Exclusions: Extraordinary Circumstances Review</b>		
Will the Proposed Action documented in this Categorical Exclusion	Yes	No
<b>Rationale:</b> The proposed action would occur on a paved road in a forested environment. There are no low income or minority populations that reside in the project area therefore there would not be any effects to them.		
<b>K/</b> Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007)?		No
<b>Rationale:</b> The proposed project would not close any travel routes or change the condition of any physical features, therefore would not limit access or adversely affect the physical integrity of ceremonial or sacred Indian sites on Federal lands.		
<b>L/</b> Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112)?		No
<b>Rationale:</b> Since the event occurs primarily on paved roads, there are few opportunities for disturbing mineral soil or otherwise creating habitat for noxious weed species. The potential for any adverse impacts from the spread of noxious weeds through the implementation of this project is low.		

This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The proposed action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM2 (see Table 1, above) apply.

**D. Specialist Review and Signature**

Name	Resource	Initial
Andy Pampush	NEPA Compliance	ATP
Debra Drake	Recreation Planner/Team Lead	DLD
Steve Bahe	Wildlife	SAB
Matt Walker	Fisheries	MJW
Kurt Heckerth	Botany	KWH
Chris Robinson	Hydrology	CWR
Chris Sween	Soils	CRS
Clint Gregory	Fire and fuels	CJG

**Authorized Official:** \_\_\_\_\_

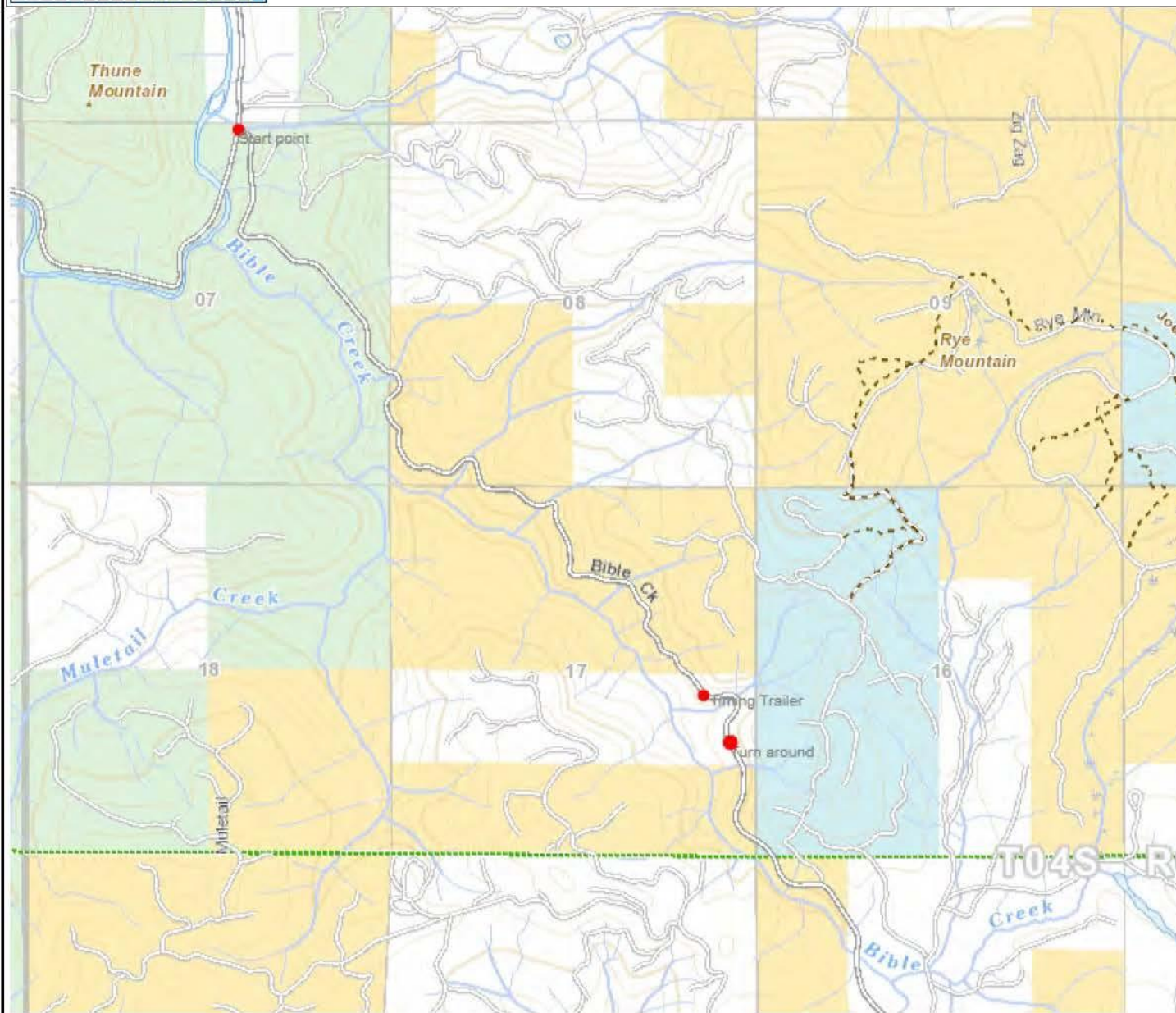
**Name:** Karen Schank

**Title:** Tillamook Field Manager

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Person:** For additional information concerning this CX review contact Debra Drake, Bureau of Land Management, Salem District office, 1717 Fabry Road, Salem, Oregon at (503) 375-5667.

# 2016 Bible Creek Hill Climb



- ▲ GNIS All Summits
  - Larger than 100,000
  - 50,000 - 99,999
  - 10,000 - 49,999
  - Less than 10,000
  - Larger than 100,000
  - 50,000 - 99,999
  - 10,000 - 49,999
  - Less than 10,000
- Recreation Sites - Point
- 🚤 Boat Launch Point
  - 🏠 Cabin Site
  - 🏕️ Campsite Point
  - 🕒 Cave Entrance Point
  - 🎓 Environmental Education Point
  - 🪂 Hang-gliding Launch Point
  - ♨️ Hot Springs Site
  - ❓ Information Center (staffed)
  - 🗺️ Interpretive Site (unstaffed kiosk, sign, panel displ)
  - 🏠 Major Visitor Information Center (staffed)
  - 🅑🅖 Preparation/Parking Area Point
  - 🚻 Roadside Toilet Structure
  - 📷 Scenic Overlook Point
  - 🏊 Swimming Area Point
  - 🚚 Trailhead Point



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July 21, 2016

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**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
SALEM DISTRICT  
TILLAMOOK FIELD OFFICE**


**NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DECISION RECORD**  
DOI-BLM-ORWA-S060-2016-0010-CX

**PROPOSED ACTION**

The proposal is to allow Willamette Motor Club to conduct a three-day hill climb event along Bible Creek Road beginning August 12, 2016 and ending on August 14, 2016. A Special Recreation Permit would be issued to authorize use between the Nestucca Access Road, starting point, and approximately mile post 2.6 on Bible Creek Road. The Proposed Action and location are described in the attached Categorical Exclusion Documentation DOI-BLM-ORWA-S060-2016-0010-CX. The duration of the permit would be for three days.

**DECISION AND RATIONALE**

I have determined that the proposed action, which qualifies as a categorical exclusion under Department of Interior Manual 516 DM 11.9 (H) 1, involves no significant impact to the human environment and no further environmental analysis is required. It is my decision to authorize the issuance of the Special Recreation Permit to Willamette Motor Club for the use of the Bible Creek Road for the hill climb event.

Authorized Official:  Date: 7/22/16  
Karen Schank  
Field Manager  
Tillamook Field Office

This is a land decision on a Special Recreation Permit in accordance with BLM regulations at 43 CFR Part 2930. BLM decisions under 43 CFR Subpart 2931.8(b) go into effect immediately and will remain in effect unless a stay is granted on appeal under 43 CFR Subpart 4.21(b) by the Director of the Office of Hearings and Appeals or an Appeals Board.

**RIGHT OF APPEAL**

This decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals (Board or IBLA) according to 43 CFR Part 4 – Department of Interior Hearings and Appeals Procedures, found on the internet at: <http://tinyurl.com/USDIAppealsProcedures>. Appeals can be made by those who have a “legally cognizable interest” to which there is a substantial likelihood that the action authorized in this decision would cause injury, and who have established themselves as a “party to the case.” (See 43 CFR subpart 4.410). If an appeal is

taken, a written notice of appeal must be filed with Karen Schank, Tillamook Field Manager, 4610 Third Street, Tillamook, OR 97141 by close of business (4:30 p.m.) not more than 30 days after the date of service of the decision. Only signed hard copies of a notice of appeal received in the Tillamook Field Office at the address above will be accepted. Appeals faxed, e-mailed, or sent by any other electronic format will not be considered. In order to request a stay of the decision, an appellant must file a petition for stay at the same time as the appeal in accordance with 43 CFR Subpart 4.21(b).

The Tillamook Field Manager plans to issue the permit directly following the date of the posting of this decision on the BLM's NEPA Register web page, which can be found on the internet at: <http://tinyurl.com/WMCHillClimbCX>